



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste Division

June 2003

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

Hazards on the Homefront Teacher Training at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center

Looking for real life examples that engage students, lessons that teach Essential Learnings while using multiple intelligences? Join us for a hands-on workshop that is designed by teachers for teachers! King County Solid Waste Division is sponsoring two, free teacher workshops on Household Hazardous Waste for teachers of grades 4-12 on June 24th OR August 12th from 9AM to 1:30PM at the Cedar River Watershed. For teachers interested in an extended day, an optional tour of the watershed will be offered on June 24th and action project planning/outdoor activities on August 12th.

Each workshop provides information about safer alternatives to hazardous household products and ways to teach students to improve their health and safety. Participants receive ready-to-use lesson plans that are easy to integrate into existing curriculum. To register, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at (206) 583-0655 or dgarlandrenn@triangleassociates.com. Visit www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers to learn more.



CEDAR RIVER
**WATERSHED
EDUCATION
CENTER**

Identify Your Home or School as Pesticide Free



Tell your neighborhood that you don't use pesticides with a Pesticide Free Zone sign from the Washington Toxics Coalition. The eight-inch diameter aluminum signs have two mounting holes that allow them to be attached to a stake, fence, or wall or hung from a wire. The cost is \$7.50 each, including shipping and sales tax. The sign comes with three fact sheets: *What's Wrong with Using Pesticides?*, *Talking to your Neighbor about Pesticides*, and the *Pesticide Free Zone Sign Owners Manual*. To purchase signs, contact the Washington Toxics Coalition at (206) 632-1545 or at www.watoxics.org.

Water Education Grants

The Water Conservation Coalition of Puget Sound (WCCPS) is offering grants of up to \$500 to classroom teachers who want to incorporate water education and activities into their curriculum. Water education or activities may include classroom projects that involve the study of water, water resources, the watershed in which your school is located or the source from which your school receives its drinking water. Project examples range from presentations, native garden development, water related materials, field trips, or science fairs. For questions or further information, contact Michael Brent at 425.398.4419 or michaelb@nud.net. Application deadline is October 24, 2003.

Award Winning Green Teams

The following Green Teams made a commitment to reducing waste and are recognized as "Habitat Helpers" by King County.

Beverly Park School – Erin Zackey's first-graders spearheaded a school project to decorate grocery bags for Earth Day. They also planted a small garden and created an Earth Day painting with earth-saving tips.

Black Diamond Elementary – Linda Reiter's fifth-grade team conducts a weekly Waste-Free Thursday as well as picks up recycling from each classroom. As a result of their efforts, the whole school is reducing and recycling more.

Christian Faith School – Mary McFaul's fifth-grade students reduced food waste by starting a worm bin and acquiring rats to eat scraps and dairy products.

Emerald Park Elementary – Mrs. Johnson's fourth grade worked on improving school recycling by creating posters and writing and performing a video skit about what to recycle for the school TV news.

Enatai Elementary – Mamiko Kobayashi's third-fifth grade special ed students are responsible for collecting the recycling at the school. They communicate with teachers and staff to make sure the recycling works smoothly.

Evergreen Academy –



Stephanie McNamar and Amy Sheridan's third graders collect the recycling each week and expanded the program

to include glass, plastic and aluminum in addition to mixed paper. Students also started a worm bin, planted buffer trees along a salmon-bearing stream at the Woodinville Recycle Center, and planted bulbs around the school.

Holy Trinity Lutheran School – Rachel Tacke's first and second-grade class sponsors a "Green Lunch" Day every Thursday. Students bring *all* their lunch in reusable containers. They also started a worm bin for food waste and students have gained a greater respect for worms of all sorts!

Lea Hill Elementary – Mary Mondt's fourth graders have made reuse a priority in the classroom. They have created numerous art projects, bird feeders, report covers, and more and displayed them in the library to inspire other students. Students also spearheaded an Earth Day grocery bag project as well as litter clean-up for the whole school.

Lockwood Elementary –



Justine Hurley's fifth/sixth grade class has adopted a stream near the school. They have been taking water samples, learning about native plants, and removing invasive plants. The class writes an environmental newsletter that goes out to the school community. Parent volunteer, Elizabeth Mooney, is a 2003 Earth Hero at School.

Meridian Elementary – Dave Smith, Camille Wooden, and Ron Frank's sixth-graders have been studying Soos Creek and identifying actions to improve the creek. In June, they are hosting an environmental fair to teach the rest of the school what they have learned. They also have set up worm bins and sponsored a waste-free lunch day.

Parkwood Elementary Recycling Club – Sheryl Lundahl, Tricia Parks, and Cynthia Geis's third through sixth-graders meet every Thursday after school and empty the recycling for the school. The students also sort through the office recycling to collect one-sided paper for reuse.

Renton Park Elementary – Chris Renfrew's fourth-graders ensure that recycling is done correctly and consistently schoolwide. Students conducted skits to teach other students and then checked once or twice a week for proper sorting of garbage and recycling. The first-grade teacher reported that her students now "stand guard over the garbage cans to make sure it is done right." Awards will be given to the top three recycling classrooms. Students also collect cans from home and school to raise money to donate to a burn camp for children.

West Mercer Elementary – Nancy Burrill's first-grade students have created a butterfly garden and set up a worm bin. They also reuse as much as possible in the classroom.

Woodmoor Elementary – Sue Moeller's first-grade students have made a real commitment to reducing lunch waste. Students only bring what they will eat, take nonperishable leftovers home, and use reusable containers. They also carefully review the menu in advance to avoid buying lunch if they won't eat it all.



Turning Hazards on the Homefront into Action

Six teachers have used the Hazards on the Homefront Mini-Grants as seed money for projects that teach students how hazardous products affect their communities and/or how safer alternatives can benefit their health and environment.

Cathy Garrand, Kenmore Junior High

With the help of her students, parent volunteers, other teachers, and the County, Cathy Garrand turned an untended area adjacent to the school into a major learning opportunity with a focus on natural area restoration and native plants. Volunteers have been uprooting blackberries and ivy, adding mulch, and preparing the area for native plants. In addition to a mini-grant to purchase gloves and tools, a parent has donated 10 yards of mulch and County Community Stewardship Specialist Greg Rabourn has provided advice on native plants. Students work on the area almost everyday after school. Next year, this will become an official afterschool activity and students will be able to work in the garden every Wednesday all year long.

Jim Ohlsen, Denny Middle School

Each student in Jim Ohlsen's seventh-grade class has identified a specific issue of environmental concern, tested out an appropriate action to take, and has written it up. The end result will be a book of environmental actions that will be circulated to the rest of the school and the students' families. The mini-grant is covering the cost of the printing.

Marvice Thornton, Kennydale Elementary

This teacher used her mini-grant to work with her fifth-grade students on an HHW video project. Divided into small groups, the students created and filmed skits to teach others about the dangers of hazardous household products and the safer alternatives that are available. Each student received a video so they could share the information (and their acting talent!) with their families.

Barbara Steffens, Lisa Chi, Danielle DuChesne, Shorecrest High School



These three ninth-grade integrated physical science teachers have teamed up to do a study of neighborhood soils and runoff in order to determine how much of the hazardous products used in yards might be getting into Puget Sound. Their students, numbering 400, will determine what kind of waste is present in their yards, the permeability of soils in the area, and how this affects surface water runoff. The final report will consist of a letter addressed to parents and community organizations that explains in detail the research conducted, calculations made, final conclusion, and recommend action steps. Mini-grant funds were used to purchase equipment and supplies.

King County's Green Schools Program

King County Executive Ron Sims recognized and awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Bellevue High School, Tolt Middle School and Crestwood Elementary School for participating in the pilot Green Schools Program and initiating conservation practices at their facilities. Each school chose at least four areas in which to conserve natural resources and potentially cut costs. As a result of its Green School practices Crestwood Elementary qualified for a \$1,500 Sustainable School Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Become a Green School

Based on this year's results, the program will expand in the 2003-04 year. For more information about the program, please see the new web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/greenschools/index.htm>

Any school that wishes to participate should contact Dale Alekel at (206) 296-8457 or dale.alekel@metrokc.gov. King County also will work extensively with one or more school districts, which must complete an application form to be considered.

Congratulations to **Crestwood Elementary**, Kent School District, recipient of a \$1,500 Sustainable School Award and to **Glacier Park Elementary**, Tahoma School District recipient of a \$2,500 Seed Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology Sustainable School Awards <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html>.





Imagine A Better Earth Program Wows Audiences

The 911 Media Arts Center, under contract with the KC Solid Waste Division and the Environmental Protection Agency, worked with three classrooms at Foster High School in Tukwila to produce videos based on the book *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things*. *Sole for Sale* consists of humorous interviews with high school students about the origins of their shoes. *Food for Thought* is a thoughtful look at comparing consumption and eating habits in different cultures via interviews with a diverse group of high school students. And *Think Twice* enacts the history and environmental consequences of the production of every day items. All three videos were featured at the 2003 Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Festival, where they were voted to be among the "Best of the Festival." The videos, along with a

discussion guide focusing on consumption, will be available for teachers to borrow in September 2003.

Jim Vick, songwriter and teacher, worked with middle school and high school students to produce a variety of songs written by the students. At this

year's Folklife Festival in Seattle, several students performed their songs to a large, appreciative audience at the Center House at Seattle Center.

This King County program (formerly called RecycleArtist Program) will not be continued next year.

Secondary School Students Make A Difference

Students from **Issaquah Middle School** along with community volunteers are removing non-native invasive plant species from the Johnson property and stream in Issaquah in June. This is the third consecutive year teens from this school have worked on removing invasive plants in order to restore salmon habitat and protect our natural communities. Several classes including **Mia Arends's** students at **BEST High School** and **Justin Mack's** students at **Kellogg Middle School** and the YMCA stenciled *Dump No Waste* messages at storm drains around their school.

**For more details on these and other programs,
visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>**



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Department of
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Solid Waste Division
King Street Center, Suite 701
201 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

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